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PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
**AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.**

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VOL. II.

MAY & JUNE, 1841.

No. 18.

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*Stated Meeting, May 7.*

Present, twenty-seven members.

MR. DU PONCEAU, President, in the Chair.

Mr. Isaac R. Jackson, and Professor Roswell Park, members elect, were introduced, and signed the Laws.

Letters were received, and read :—

From the Perpetual Secretary of the Royal Academy of Inscriptions, &c., Institute of France, dated 16th Nov. 1840, and 15th Feb. 1841, acknowledging the receipt of Vol. VII. Part 1, of the Transactions, and of No. 13, of the Proceedings of the Society.

From M. Felix Lajard, Provisional Secretary of the Royal Academy of Sciences, Institute of France, dated 8th Dec. 1840, accompanying Vol. XIV. Part 2, of its Memoirs, and communicating information relative to the course of the Academy's publications, its public sittings, the prizes it distributes, &c. The Provisional Secretary announces the purpose of the Academy to transmit its weekly reports, *procès verbaux*, &c., with renewed regularity to the Society, and invites a closer correspondence, and more frequent interchanges between the two Institutions.\*

From Count J. Gråberg de Hemsö, to the Librarian, dated Florence, 26th Nov. 1840, and 4th Jan. 1841, and to one of the

\* The programme of prizes, &c., referred to in M. Lajard's letter as accompanying it, and to which the Society was requested to give publicity, did not arrive.

Secretaries, dated 16th Jan. 1841, relating to numerous donations heretofore transmitted by him to the Library.

The following donations were announced :—

TO THE LIBRARY.

Des Moyens de soustraire l'Exploitation des Mines de Houille aux chances d'Explosion, &c. &c. Brussels, 1840. 8vo.—*From the Royal Academy of Brussels.*

Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy. Vol. XIX. Part I. Dublin, 1841. 4to.—*From the Academy.*

Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Vol. XIV. Part I. Edinburgh 1839. 4to.—*From the Society.*

Proceedings of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Nos. 13, 14, 15, 1838, 1839. 8vo.—*From the same.*

Astronomical, and Magnetical, and Meteorological Observations, made at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, in the year 1839, &c. &c. London, 1840. 4to.—*From the Royal Society.*

List of the Council, Scientific Committees, and Fellows of the Royal Society, Nov. 30, 1840. 4to.—*From the same.*

Proceedings of the Royal Society. No. 45. Nov. 1840. 8vo.—*From the same.*

The Laws of the Historical Society of Science, and List of its Officers and Members. London, 1840. 8vo.—*From the same.*

Institut Royal de France: Séance Publique Annuelle de l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres, du Sept. 25, 1840. Paris, 1840. 4to.—*From the Institute.*

Mémoires de l'Institut Royal de France, Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres. Tome XIV. Paris, 1840. 4to.—*From the same.*

Société d'Encouragement pour l'Industrie Nationale, Calendrier pour 1841, Liste des Membres, &c. Paris.—*From the Society.*

Recueil des Actes de la Séance Publique de l'Académie Impériale des Sciences de St. Pétersbourg, tenue le 29 Déc. 1838. St. Petersburg, 1839. 4to.—*From the Academy.*

Recueil des Actes de la Séance Publique de l'Académie Impériale, &c. &c., du 29 Déc. 1839. St. Petersburg, 1840. 4to.—*From the same.*

Mémoires de l'Académie Imperiale, &c. &c. VI<sup>me</sup>. Sér.—Sciences Politiq. Hist. Philolog. Tom. IV<sup>me</sup>, 4<sup>me</sup> et 5<sup>me</sup> Livrns.—Sciences Mathém. Phys. et Natur. Tome IV<sup>me</sup>, prém. Partie.

- Mathém. et Phys. Tom. IId, 3me et 4me Livrns.—Sciences  
Mathém. Phys. et Natur. Tom. Vme. 2d Partie. Natur. Tom.  
IIIme, 1re, 2de, 3me et 4me Livrns. St. Petersburg, 1839,  
1840. 8 Livrns. 4to.—*From the same.*
- Vocabulario Universale della Lingua Italiana. Vol. VI. Fasc.  
XXXVII. Vol. VII. Fasc. XL. XLI. Naples, 1839, 1840. Fol.  
*From the Chev. Morelli.*
- De la Vérité; ou Méditations sur les moyens de parvenir à la Vérité,  
&c. &c., par J. P. Brissot de Warville, (with MS. Notes by the  
Author.) Neufchatel, 1782. 8vo.—*From Mr. John Penington.*
- Nouveaux Documens relatifs à l'emploi alimentaire de la Gelatine en  
1840, par M. d'Arcet, &c. &c. Paris, 1840. 8vo.—*From Mr.  
D. B. Warden.*
- Specchio Geografico, e Statistico, del l'Impero di Marocco, del Cava-  
liere Conte Jacopo Gräberg di Hemsö, &c. &c. Genoa, 1834.  
8vo.—*From the Author.*
- Nouvelles Recherches sur l'Inscription en lettres sacrées du Monu-  
ment de Rosette. Florence, 1830. 8vo.—*From the same.*
- Cenni Geografici e Statistici su l'Asia Centrale, e principalmente sul  
paese dei Kirghizi e sul Khanato di Khiva, per Jacobo Gräberg  
da Hemsö, &c. &c. Milan, 1840. 8vo.—*From the same.*
- Descrizione delle orde e delle steppe dei Kirghizi-Kazaki, opera dal  
Signor Alessio de Leuchine, oro notomizzata per Jacopo Gräberg  
da Hemsö. Milan, 1840. 8vo.—*From the same.*
- Dalla Necessita d'un Istituto Agrario che stabilmente provveda all'in-  
cremento dell'Agricoltura Toscana, &c. &c. Memoria dal Mar-  
chese Francesco Maria Riccardo del Vernaccia, &c. &c. Flo-  
rence, 1839. 8vo.—*From the same.*
- The same Memoir, translated into French, by Count J. Gräberg da  
Hemsö. Paris, 1840. 8vo.—*From the same.*
- Sul Sistema di Rotazione in Coltura, &c. &c. Memoria dal Conte  
Jacopo Gräberg da Hemsö. Florence, 1840. 8vo.—*From the  
same.*
- Thirteen Reviews, &c. for different periodical publications, by Count  
J. Gräberg da Hemsö. 1829—1839.—*From the same.*
- Phrenology; a Lecture delivered before the Woodville Lyceum Asso-  
ciation, by Mariano Cubi i Soler, Professor of Modern Languages,  
&c. &c. Boston, 1840. 8vo.—*From the Author.*
- Report of a Survey and Exploration of the Coal and Ore Lands be-  
longing to the Alleghany Coal Co. &c. &c. By Walter R. John-

- son, A.M. &c. &c. Philadelphia, 1841. 8vo.—*From the Author.*
- Review of the Dictionarium Anamitico-Latinum, &c. By John Pickering, Esq. &c. &c. Boston, 1841. 8vo.—*From the Author.*
- Eighth Annual Report of the Managers of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind. Philadelphia, 1841. 8vo.—*From the Managers.*
- A Memoir, &c. of the late Joseph Parrish, M.D. &c. &c. By George B. Wood, M.D. Philadelphia, 1840. 8vo.—*From the Author.*
- A Discourse on the Death of William Henry Harrison, &c. &c. By George W. Bethune, Minister of the Reformed Dutch Church, Philadelphia, 1841. 8vo.—*From the Author.*
- Biographical Notice of Benjamin Silliman, M.D. LL.D. &c. &c. By Professor Kingsley.—*From Mr. Vaughan.*
- Statistics of the Class of 1837, Yale College. 1840. 8vo.—*From Mr. B. Silliman, Jr.*
- Contributions towards a History of the Star-Showers of former Times. By Edward C. Herrick, &c. &c. 1841. 8vo.—*From the same.*
- Catalogue of Books, &c. added to the Library of the N. Y. Historical Society since Jan. 1839. New York, 1840. 8vo.—*From the Society.*
- Twenty-fourth Report to the London Provident Institution, or Bank for Savings. 20th Nov. 1840.—*From William Vaughan, Esq.*
- A Plan, showing the Progress of the Thames Tunnel.—*From Petty Vaughan, Esq.*
- Abstract of a Meteorological Journal for the year ending 30th Nov. 1840, kept by N. W. Hatch, in the city of Vicksburg, Lat.  $32\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ . *From the Author.*
- Register of Debates in Congress, by Gales & Seaton. Vols. I. II. 1824, 1825, 1826. 8vo.—*From Mr. John Vaughan.*

Lieut. John A. Dahlgren, U. S. N. deposited in the Library of the Society—

The Statistical Reports on the Health of the British Navy, for the Years 1830 to 1836, inclusive; and The British Navy Estimates for the Year 1840–41.

The Committee, consisting of Mr. Walker, Dr. Patterson, and Mr. Justice, to whom was referred a paper, read on the 2d and 16th of April last, entitled “Astronomical Observations at

Hudson Observatory, by Elias Loomis, Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy in Western Reserve College," reported in favour of its publication in the Transactions; which was ordered accordingly.

The paper of Professor Loomis contains the Astronomical Observations made at the Hudson Observatory in 1840, and part of 1839, being a sequel to those published in Vol. VII. Part I. Art. IV. of the Transactions.

1st. The latitude of the observatory is determined to be  $41^{\circ} 14' 40''$ ,—being the mean from 9 lower culminations of Polaris, in 1840, giving  $41^{\circ} 14' 42''.3$ , and 6 upper culminations in 1839, giving  $41^{\circ} 14' 38''.1$ . Its longitude is stated to be 5h 25m 45s West.

2d. The series of moon culminations, ending last year with No. 50, is now extended to No. 125; and the method is pointed out, by which observations of the moon's limb, which have been made on a side wire, are reduced to the middle wire of the instrument.

3d. Seven occultations of fixed stars by the moon, are given.

4th. Observations are presented of the 2d Comet of 1840, discovered by Galle, January 25, at Berlin. The proximate elements of this Comet by Encke, were received by Professor Loomis, from Mr. S. C. Walker, on the 14th of March; and the Professor having prepared an ephemeris, found the Comet on the next clear evening, the 18th, and made satisfactory observations of its place in the heavens.

These observations, corrected for parallax and refraction, are stated as follows:

1840.	Berlin Mean Time.			Comet's A. R.			Comet's Dec.
	<i>h</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>s</i>	<i>h</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>s</i>	
March 18	14	18	12.34	29	40	43.8	
	14	28	54.89				+ 22 49 51.8
19	14	8	4.04	30	7	45.1	
	14	9	27.52				+ 22 17 5.9
21	14	32	5.63	31	1	2.5	
	14	0	23.72				+ 21 14 49.0
25	14	12	52.44	32	40	7.8	
	14	34	24.72				+ 19 15 35.1
April 1	14	22	41.82				+ 16 7 29.7
2	14	23	15.53	35	39	25.0	
	13	57	59.69				+ 15 42 2.0

These, with 34 observations by Rümker, at Hamburg, 26 by Argelander, at Bonn, and 12 by Encke, at Berlin, received through

Mr. Walker, Mr. Loomis compares with the ephemeris of Mr. R. Kysæus, and thence deduces, for six intermediate dates, the normal places of the Comet, for 8 o'clock P. M., mean time Berlin.

Date 1840.	Comet's places freed from aberration.						Corrections of Ephemeris.		Probable error of normal places.
	A. R.			Dec.			A. R.	Dec.	
Jan. 31 8	326°	25'	5.3"	+ 61°	25'	16.4"	+ 14.7	— 8.1	+ 2.7
Feb. 12 8	358	8	24.9	51	2	50.7	— 12.7	— 1.1	2.5
23 8	13	19	36.0	40	11	32.5	— 17.3	+ 7.8	1.7
March 3 8	21	1	17.4	32	39	19.0	— 28.0	+ 17.6	1.2
12 8	26	34	40.9	26	28	14.8	— 32.6	+ 22.4	1.5
24 8	32	9	57.6	19	52	15.7	— 40.2	+ 25.0	1.9

Prof. Loomis then gives the perturbations of the Comet, computed after the method of Bessel for the Comet of 1807, for 3 intervals of 18 days each, from which their values are interpolated for the 6 dates, and subtracted from the Comet's normal places, previously referred to the ecliptic, and the mean equinox, Jan. 1st, 1840: thus

Date.	Perturbations.		Comet's Longitude less Perturbations.			Comet's Latitude less Perturbations.		
	Long.	Lat.						
Jan. 31	0.0	0.0	15°	0'	50.0"	+ 65°	37'	49.6"
Feb. 12	0.0	— 1.1	24	50	22.3	46	10	41.5
23	— 0.2	— 1.9	29	22	27.8	31	27	35.5
March 3	— 0.4	— 2.3	32	2	14.6	22	0	28.2
12	— 0.7	— 2.5	34	14	5.2	14	26	39.0
24	— 1.1	— 2.7	36	45	4.7	6	27	27.7

From these, by means of 12 equations of condition resolved by the method of least squares, Prof. Loomis derives the parabolic elements of the Comet, and then by varying the sixth element, (the eccentricity,) after Bessel's example, obtains the elliptic elements, both as follows, the motion being retrograde.

Perihel. passage, m. t. Berlin,	Parabolic Elements.			Elliptic Elements.		
	March 12d. 981921			March 13d. 153768		
Longitude of Perihel.	80°	20'	24.4"	80°	12'	3.52"
„ ascending node,	236	48	39.3	236	50	34.67
Inclination of orbit,	59	14	2.4	59	12	36.14
Logarithm. of Perihel. dis.	0.0870185			0.0865202		
Eccentricity,				0.99323412		
Semi-axis major,				180.383		
Periodic time,				2422.6 yrs.		

The errors of the respective orbits, are as follows : those in longitude being multiplied by the cosine of declinations.

Date.	Errors of Parabolic Elements.		Errors of Elliptic Elements.	
	Longitude.	Latitude.	Longitude.	Latitude.
Jan. 31	+ 4.4	+ 2.6	+ 0.6	+ 1.8
Feb. 12	— 1.4	— 1.9	+ 0.4	— 3.9
23	— 6.1	+ 1.5	— 2.6	+ 2.0
March 3	— 2.7	— 1.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.6
12	+ 0.1	— 0.7	+ 0.5	+ 1.1
24	+ 5.9	+ 1.1	+ 0.9	— 1.5
Sum of Squares of Errors,		Sum of Squares of Errors,		
117.85		34.62		

Mr. Loomis remarks, in conclusion, that there is no room for hesitation in the choice between the two orbits, though the last element is liable to considerable uncertainty.

Mr. Boyé communicated to the Society the results of the analysis of three different varieties of felspar from the primary rocks of the State of Delaware, as performed by Professor Booth and himself.

In the granitic veins that traverse the Serpentine, at Tucker's quarry, six miles N. W. of Wilmington, the felspar occurs in large masses, of which two different varieties may be distinguished; one having most of the characters of common potassa, felspar, or orthoclas, which is used for several technical purposes; the other resembling albite or soda-felspar, and exhibiting a peculiar tendency to undergo decomposition. As these two varieties of felspar may be supposed to enter generally into the composition of the gneiss and other primary rocks of this region, and thereby affect, not merely their mineralogical character, but also their stability when employed in construction, or for other purposes, it was considered a matter of interest to know their exact composition. They were, therefore, subjected by Prof. Booth and Mr. Boyé, to a thorough analysis by fusion with three times their weight of carbonate of soda, &c. &c. To determine their alkalies, they were decomposed by exposure on a shallow platinum capsule, to the vapours of fluohydric acid, in a close leaden vessel as described by Brunner. The fluosilicates were then decomposed by concentrated sulphuric acid, and the alumina precipi-



tated by ammonia; and after the remaining sulphates had been converted into carbonates by acetate of lead, and the carbonates of soda and potassa into chlorides, the joint weight of these two chlorides was ascertained, and the chloride of potassium afterwards separated by chloroplatinate of sodium and alcohol. The results thus obtained were as follows:

*Felspar, from the granitic vein at Tucker's quarry, six miles N.  
W. of Wilmington.*

1st variety. (Orthoclas.)

Colour white; lustre vitreous, inclining to pearly; translucent. Fracture distinctly rhomboidal, traversed by innumerable parallel cracks or fissures, which impart to it a milky or opaque appearance. Specific gravity in piece, 2.562, in powder, 2.585, at temperature 69° F.

Composition in 100 parts.

		Oxygen.	
Silica . . . . .	65.24 . . . . .	33.89	
Alumina . . . . .	19.02 . . . . .	8.88	
Peroxide of Iron	a trace		} 11.83
Magnesia . . . . .	0.13 . . . . .	0.050	
Lime . . . . .	0.33 . . . . .	0.092	} 2.948
Soda . . . . .	3.06 . . . . .	0.782	
Potassa . . . . .	11.94 . . . . .	2.024	
	<hr/>		
	99.72		

2d variety. (Albite.)

Colour white, transparent; lustre pearly, inclined to vitreous. Fracture more irregular; the surface of the fracture striated, curved, or exhibiting obtuse angles. Hardness slightly inferior to the former. It fuses with great difficulty before the blow-pipe, but is slightly more fusible than the preceding. Specific gravity in piece 2.612, at 71° F.

Composition in 100 parts.

		Oxygen.	
Silica . . . . .	65.46 . . . . .	34.01	
Alumina . . . . .	20.74 . . . . .	9.685	} 9.85
Peroxide of Iron . . . . .	0.54 . . . . .	0.165	
Magnesia . . . . .	0.74 . . . . .	0.286	} 13.22
Lime . . . . .	0.71 . . . . .	0.227	
Soda . . . . .	8.98 . . . . .	2.552	} 3.37
Potassa . . . . .	1.80 . . . . .	0.305	
	<hr/>		
	99.97		

Mr. Boyé remarked, that felspar being a double oxysalt of two

neutral silicates, one of a base containing 2 atoms of metallic radical with three atoms of oxygen (alumina and peroxide of iron), the other a silicate of such alkaline or earthy bases, as contain one atom of radical combined with one atom of oxygen (potassa, soda, lime, magnesia (?)), the oxygen contained in the silica ought always to be three times that contained in all the bases; while again the oxygen in the alumina and peroxide of iron ought to be equal to three times that contained in the other bases. He called attention to the fact, that this latter is exactly the case in both of the above varieties, but that if the oxygen contained in all the bases be multiplied by three, a small deficiency of oxygen is made apparent in the silica of the first variety, amounting to 1.6; ( $3 \times 11.83 = 35.49$ ;) but, that the deficiency of oxygen in the second variety is so great, amounting to 5.6, ( $3 \times 13.22 = 39.66$ ), that it cannot be accidental. Indeed, the proportion of oxygen in the silica to that in the bases of this variety, may be nearly indicated as  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 1, ( $2\frac{1}{2} \times 13.22 = 33.05$ ); thus leaving it uncertain, in Mr. Boyé's opinion, whether it be a different variety, or a mixture of a felspar with an analogous subsilicate. The specimen employed for analysis showed no signs of commencing decomposition, though it would seem natural to connect the deficiency of silica which it exhibited with liability to such a change. The analyses also exhibit the fact, that the principal alkali in the first variety is potassa, with a comparatively small proportion of soda, while the alkali in the latter is principally soda, with a small amount of potassa.

Mr. Boyé proceeded to remark, that the rock which constitutes the south-eastern portion of the primary formation of the state, differs in many respects from the others, and has received the appellation of *the blue rock* from its peculiar colour. The principal constituent of this rock is a translucent felspar, of a bluish or smoky colour, which sometimes in an irregular congregation constitutes the whole mass. The rock affords, in many places, a very superior material for architectural purposes, and its principal constituent, the felspar, was therefore likewise subjected to analysis, with a view to compare it with the two preceding. The result of this analysis was as follows:

*Felspar of the blue rock, from Quarryville, 3 miles N. E. of  
Wilmington.*

Colour smoky gray, translucent; powder nearly white. Fracture in mass irregular, coarse-grained; that of distinct portions rhomboidal. This variety of felspar exhibits, sometimes, a slight but indistinct play of colours. Specific gravity in piece, 2.603, temp. 70° F.

## Composition in 100 parts.

			Oxygen.				
Silica	. . . . .	66.51	. . .	34.55			
Alumina	. . . . .	17.67	. . .	8.25	} 8.66	} 11.56	
Peroxide of Iron	. . . . .	1.33	. . .	0.41			
Magnesia	. . . . .	0.30	. . .	0.116	} 2.897		
Lime	. . . . .	1.24	. . .	0.347			
Soda	. . . . .	3.03	. . .	0.774			
Potassa	. . . . .	9.81	. . .	1.660			
		<hr/>		99.89			

In comparing this result with the two former, Mr. Boyé observed, that this felspar approaches, in composition, more nearly to the first of the others; but, that a small portion of the potassa is replaced by lime, to which latter, and the oxide of iron, it probably owes its higher specific gravity. To these two ingredients, as well as to the full proportion of silica which it exhibits, ( $3 \times 11.56 = 34.68$ ), may be referred the indestructibility and other superior qualities which are ascribed to this variety.

Mr. B. closed his remarks by mentioning the recently published report of Professor Booth, on the geology of Delaware, as presenting a detailed and interesting notice of these several rocks.

Mr. Lea submitted to the examination of the members, a volume containing two hundred specimens of photogenic drawings of the plants in the vicinity of Philadelphia, by his son, Mr. Carey Lea.

Prof. A. D. Bache laid before the Society a diagram representing the direction and force of the wind, and the amount and rate of fall of the rain, during the severe gust of April 2d.

The diagrams were copies of the register kept at the Philadelphia Magnetic Observatory, at the Girard College, traced by the self-registering anemometer. The bi-hourly register of the barometer showed, that the pressure diminished from early in the morning to the time of the observation next preceding the gust, at the rate of about .09 of an inch every two hours. The wind during the day was generally from the S., and light, veering in the afternoon, occasionally nearly to S. by W. Between 6h 7m, P. M. and 6h 20m, it had changed from S. to N. W. by W., and the pressure between 6h 14m and 6h 21m increased from 0 to 20 lbs. avoirdupois, upon the square foot. Rain began to fall about 6h 15m, the wind having at that time reached the W. in direction, with a force of less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of

a lb. to the square foot. The fall of rain was not remarkable. The extreme force of the gust was at its beginning, the pressure declining in 15*m* from 20 to 15 lbs. and reaching  $3\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. at 7*h* 10*m*, when it again increased. At the regular observation of the barometer, about twenty minutes past 6 o'clock, the wind having then the direction of N. W. by W. and a force of nearly 20lbs., the barometer stood at 29.548 inches, (corrected,) the temperature of the air being 50°, and the elastic force of vapour calculated from the evaporating point, and temperature being 0.357 inches. The rise of the barometer between the 4 and 6 o'clock observations, had been but .06 of an inch, and the pressure continued to increase during the night. The force of this storm is almost exactly that assigned in the table attached to the report of the Committee of Physics of the Royal Society of London, to a "great storm." It is to be regretted that an observation was not taken immediately preceding the storm, to know if there was a sudden fall of the barometer at that period.

Prof. Bache also described to the Society a modification of the part of Ostler's self-registering anemometer, which measures the force, made by Mr. S. W. Hall, first assistant at the Magnetic Observatory at the Girard College, and applied to the instrument there.

It consists in substituting slightly curved bars or nearly flat springs attached to the table or frame of the registering part of the instrument, for the spiral springs applied in the original instrument behind the plate which receives the impulse of the wind. One only of these springs acts in measuring the force of light breezes, and the second is brought into play in stronger winds. The sensibility of the instrument is much increased in winds below five pounds to the square inch, while the instrument retains the range of the original one. The friction of the apparatus necessary to guide the spring, and the exposure of the spring to the weather and to great fluctuations of temperature are avoided. The springs being in the recording room, their action may be observed at any time, and repairs or changes required may be readily made. The removal of a considerable weight from near the top of the vane and greater compactness are further advantages of this modification of the original plan. The springs actually used are of hammered brass.

Mr. Lea, on behalf of the Publication Committee, reported that all the papers which had been ordered to be published in the Transactions were in type.

Mr. Kane, Reporter, laid upon the table a copy of the Proceedings of the Society, No. 17, for March and April, 1841.

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*Stated Meeting, May 21.*

Present, twenty-five members.

Mr. DU PONCEAU, President, in the Chair.

Mr. Peter, a member elect, was introduced, and signed the Laws.

Letters were read—

From William Peter, Esq., dated 10th May, 1841, making acknowledgments for the honour of his election to membership:—

From Josiah Quincy, President of Harvard University, dated 6th May, 1841, acknowledging, on behalf of the corporation, the receipt of Vol. VII. Part 3, of the Transactions:—

From the Corresponding Secretary of the Georgia Historical Society, dated Savannah, 20th Jan. 1841, communicating the appointment of Dr. William B. Stevens as historian of the State of Georgia, and asking access for him to any historical documents in the library of the Society.

On motion of Mr. Kane, it was resolved, that Dr. William B. Stevens, of the Georgia Historical Society, be allowed the unrestricted use of the library of the Society; and the Committee on the Historical Sciences was instructed to inquire whether there are any documents in the Society's collections which may elucidate the early history of Georgia, and to communicate with Dr. Stevens in regard to them.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

Flora Batava, of Afbeelding en Beschryving van Nederlandsche Gewassen, &c., 121 aflevering. 4to.—*From His Majesty, the King of the Netherlands.*

Mémoire sur la Bibliothèque Royale, &c. Paris, 1835. 4to.—*From Mr. John Penington.*

Second Mémoire sur la Bibliothèque Royale, &c. Paris, 1838. 4to.—*From the same.*